



Rental site eases battle for parents

By BROOKE FALVEY

SINGLE parents have been given a glimmer of hope in the desolate rental market with the launch of a new website.

The website, www.space4.com.au, designed by Sophie Lee, gives single parents a chance to make new connections and find share accommodation and childcare facilities.

Indooroopilly father-of-two Alex Smiles had tried other websites in search of a flatmate without luck.

"I suspect (having children) might put a few people off, but I've received a few responses from Space4," he said.

The 31-year-old, who has his children on weekends, said he was looking for a flatmate who was easy to get along with.

"After all, I do have to live with them."

Paddington mother-of-one Natasha Donaghy has also turned to Space4 in her search for someone to share a house with.



MP118081

■ Flatmate search ... father-of-two Alex Smiles.

"I had been thinking about share housing for quite some time, but thought 'how do I go about doing it?'" she said.

She said share housing made economic sense, given the rising cost of rent.

"To rent a house I'll be paying about \$450 a week, which is \$150 on top of what I pay now (in a two-bedroom unit)."

Ms Lee, a single mother, was inspired to start the website after her marriage

broke down in 2003.

"One of my friends' marriages also broke up at the same time and we moved in together for 18 months," she said.

Benefits varied from having someone to share the highs and lows of divorce to living comfortably on a smaller income.

"We could live in a great house in a good area, whereas if I lived alone I would only have been able to afford a small unit," Ms Lee said.



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■ Economic sense ... Paddington's Natasha Donaghy logs on to the new site.

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